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Œconomiques, 1745. By CLAUDE DUPIN. In Collection des Economistes et des Réformateurs Sociaux de la France. Published with introduction and analytical table by MARC AUCUY. Two volumes. (Paris: Marcel Rivière et Cie. 1913. Pp. lxxv, xvi, 300; xiv, 409. 32 fr.)

The reissue of Dupin's *Œconomiques* is the most ambitious undertaking which the editors of the *Collection des Economistes et des Réformateurs Sociaux de la France* have thus far attempted. The mere text requires 700 closely printed octavo pages, divided for the reader's convenience into two substantial volumes. The editor, Dr. Marc Aucuy, professor in the Collège Saint-Barbe, contributes a scholarly introduction and a useful analytical table of contents. The original pagination is indicated in the reprinted text, and title-page and frontispiece are reproduced in facsimile from Latouche's exquisite vignettes.

Dupin's *Œconomiques* ranks as the bibliophilic aristocrat of economic literature. The issue consisted originally of twelve or fifteen copies, published by Dupin in 1745 in three quarto volumes, distinguished by all the typographical elegance of French eighteenth century court imprints. Distributed among Dupin's intimate friends, the edition—if so it may be termed—never entered into general circulation. Today but three copies are known to exist. The Bibliothèque Nationale possesses one copy, and the second and third volumes of another. The third copy is in the library at Strasburg. To the general body of economists the work has thus been completely inaccessible; to the smaller group of students of pre-physiocratic literature the reprint makes possible easy and convenient reference.

Claude Dupin was born in 1683, of an old and distinguished family. His early life was spent as soldier, counsellor of the king, and financial administrator. A second marriage in 1723 brought him a considerable fortune and a strong financial sponsorship. In quick succession he became fermier général, secretary of finance, and ultimately director of commerce. Domiciled in Chenonceaux, which he had bought from the Duke of Burgundy, with the Hotel Lambert as *pied-à-terre* in Paris, and with chateaux at Roche and Clichy, Dupin maintained the traditional splendor and brilliancy of a fermier général of the old régime.

In public life, however, Dupin was no mere functionary. He was profoundly interested in economic matters, and he sought to be at once "traditionalist" and reformer. His contemporaries

speak of his broad culture, his clear judgment, and his extreme sagacity. Montesquieu deemed him "heavy"; but Voltaire praised his writings and the Abbé de Saint-Cyr was stimulated by their content.

The *Œconomiques* consist of a series of loosely connected papers and memoirs upon politico-economic questions, submitted to a group of intimate friends and modified in the light of their criticisms. The first volume contains a general outline of the economic organization of France, together with an account of needed reforms in economic policy, customs duties, public credit, and the state domain. The second volume is a description of the administrative organization of Alsace, Lorraine, and the three bishoprics. The third volume is an historical study of the *taille* and an analysis of the various systems proposed to improve its distribution. Of the three, the first volume is obviously of prime interest, dealing as it does with the broad range of economic life.

Dupin's economic creed is the mercantilist philosophy of Sully and Colbert, as systematized by Melon. Monarchy is the most perfect form of government. The interest of the king and of the kingdom being identical, a monarchy becomes powerful through the prosperity of its people. This prosperity is evidenced by the ease with which taxes are paid. An equitable distribution of public burdens, a ready circulation of domestic products, an efficient commercial technique, a favorable balance of trade, are economically desirable, because by enhancing the national product, they enlarge the fund from which the monarch may draw by taxation.

In few particulars does Dupin represent an advance in economic thought. His merit consists in having applied to contemporary issues certain economic doctrines already current, and in having done this with a wealth of historical and legislative detail. His mercantilism is a sagacious and far-sighted revision of crude bullionism; but Boisguillebert, Law, and notably Melon, had already rendered this service.

M. Aucuy examines with great fairness Dupin's claim to rank as a precursor of physiocratic doctrines, if not as a neglected physiocrat. This contention, as old as the article on Dupin in Say's *Dictionnaire*, has been lately encouraged by expressions of M. Weulersse and M. Depitre. The conclusion reached by M. Aucuy is in the main unfavorable to the claim. The most characteristic of Dupin's opinions are neo-mercantilist rather than physiocratic, while such of his expressions as suggest physi-

ocratic doctrines are devoid of originality. Only with respect to his latest *Mémoire*, published in 1759, fifteen years after the *Œconomiques*, must this judgment be modified; and, by that time, the historic articles on "Fermiers" and "Grains" had long been in the hands of the public, and the *Tableau Economique* itself had actually appeared.

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Das Malthus'sche Bevölkerungsgesetz und die theoretische Nationalökonomie der letzten Jahrzehnte. By SIEGFRIED BUDGE. Volkswirtschaftliche Abhandlungen der badischen Hochschulen, Neue Folge, Heft 8. (Karlsruhe: G. Braunsche Hofbuchdruckerei und Verlag. 1912. Pp. 221. 4.20 M.)

It is not surprising, in view of the population situation on the Continent, that German scholars in recent years have piled up a literature on the economics of population of which there is hardly a counterpart in this country. The monograph before us is a fine example of keen, close thinking in one of the most difficult fields of economic theory—the dynamics of the productive relation between population and natural resources. The author brings to his task a clear understanding of the fundamental social and ethical importance of his subject, a wide knowledge of the German and French literature, and an analytical and critical ability that makes his work a model of scholarship. His exposition of the theory of Malthus is exceptionally clear.

From a utilitarian, as distinct from a purely scholastic, point of view, it makes little difference whether Malthus discovered an imperishable principle of population or not. His work, like that of any other writer, should be used for the discovery of new truth. Mere discipleship is to be avoided. It would be easy for a student to lapse into an attitude of worshipful defense of everything Malthus said, whether it be of any importance today or not. This danger, as well as the opposite one of attacking everything "Malthusian," Dr. Budge skillfully avoids. He is interested, properly, in establishing, or at least in clearing the ground for, a population theory that will be not only true, but illuminative of the boundaries within which human progress—at least on its material side—can take place. That he, with Malthus, finds the most significant limits to lie in laws or tendencies of nature rather than in ephemeral and man-made social conditions, is not surprising, at least to the economist.